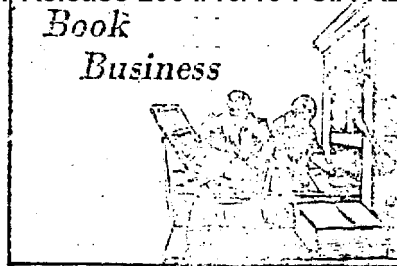


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By JOYCE ILLIG

*CIA Scholars*

THE CIA may eventually ease Watergate off the best-seller lists. John Erlichman, for example, allegedly has a novel he wants to publish about a CIA plot to overthrow the President.

Ray S. Cline, a former deputy director of the CIA, is working on a book that may be less spectacular but more substantial: a study of the American central intelligence system from 1939 to the present.

In a telephone interview, discussing his book and current headlines on the CIA, Cline said: "I think it is disgusting, what is going on now, and people are obviously confused and troubled by it. What everybody wants is an Ian Fleming sex-and-violence expose, which I am not going to give them. Nevertheless, I think it will be a serious book that people will have to pay some attention to."

The historian (who has a Harvard Ph.D.) is writing the book on a Ford Foundation grant and doesn't expect it to be published for another year or more. He says it will discuss what is the proper contribution of a secret intelligence system to an open society in the light of our history in trying to evolve such a system. Although his revelations will not be sensational, Cline said, he will give a candid description of what agency work is like, based on his own experiences.

These experiences go back to World War II, when he was in the OSS, the forerunner of the CIA. After the war, he wrote a book on military planning, *Washington Command Post*, which was published by the Government Printing Office. After finishing his book, he thought of returning to Harvard but decided to stay in Washington and work for the gov-

ernment. The CIA, which had been formed in 1947, snapped me up in 1949 and I was detailed to different agencies and worked overseas," said Cline. He remained with the CIA until 1969, when he became director of intelligence for the State Department.

*Spies and Scholars: American Central Intelligence* is Cline's tentative title, chosen, he said, to reflect the agency's policy of recruiting university people to tap their knowledge in setting priorities and interpreting data. "This gave us a different kind of intelligence service from anyone else's," said Cline, "and in my view it was the best in the world in the late '50s and early '60s because it had both spies and scholars."

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